

proceeding to New Orleans. The victors rebuilt it, and named it after the celebrated minister then at the head of British affairs; and at the present day, under the name of Pittsburgh, it is one of the most flourishing cities of the interior of America.

With the capture of Quebec and the overthrow of their power in Canada, the French seem to have lost that enterprising spirit, which, with such feeble means, had brought such immense territories under their sway; and Louisiana, its wealth and resources not yet appreciated, was regarded as only the poor remnant of a once powerful French-American empire. At the treaty of Paris, which soon followed that event, they yielded to the English nearly all east of the Mississippi, reserving only the island of New Orleans, and making that river, with Lakes Pontchartrain and Maurepas, the boundary between the possessions of the two nations. By the surrender of Acadia, Canada, and other northern possessions, the population of Louisiana received a considerable accession—many of the French colonists, expelled from their homes, or declining the rule of strangers, taking refuge there.

A far heavier blow to the nationality of the diminished province followed speedily afterwards. By a secret article of the treaty of Paris, Louis XV. had agreed to surrender the remainder of Louisiana to Spain, as a compensation for the loss of Florida, which the latter had been compelled to cede to England. For some time this arrangement was kept private, but when it eventually transpired, the unfortunate colonists were seized with dismay and mortification. In the general grief and excitement, all occupations were abandoned, and at a meeting of the most respectable inhabitants of the province, at New Orleans, it was resolved to remonstrate strongly with the home government. M. Milhet, the wealthiest and most influential merchant of that city, was dispatched to France, and with the aid of the aged Bienville, then eighty-seven years old, but still warmly attached to the colony he had founded, pressed his suit with the Duke de Choiseul. But that minister, who was himself the author of the obnoxious measure, parried all his attempts, and the unfortunate envoy could not even obtain an audience with the king.